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TOP SECRET

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GENERAL

1. Egyptian King reportedly favors British presence in Suez--
US Ambassador Caffery in Cairo has been confidentially informed that King Farouk has expressed the belief that total evacuation of British troops from the Suez area would not be to Egypt's advantage. Caffery comments that although the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were reportedly dismayed at the King's attitude, British Field Marshal Slim might now find the atmosphere more favorable for discussion of Anglo-Egyptian defense problems when he returns to Egypt next month.
2. British attitude toward Tibet--US Ambassador Douglas in London has learned that the UK is prepared to recognize Chinese Communist sovereignty over Tibet, but only with the understanding that Tibet continue to be regarded as autonomous. The UK considers that any attempt to intervene in Tibet would be "impractical and unwise," primarily because: (1) Tibet's inaccessibility makes it virtually impossible to do anything to strengthen Tibetan military capabilities for resisting Chinese Communist aggression; and (2) Britain is not now sufficiently interested in the area to warrant risking embroilment with Communist China over the fate of Tibet.

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